

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The following listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A device for measuring a hard granular object, comprising:  
a measuring vessel having a first face, a second face parallel to the first face, and a space formed between the first and second faces for receiving hard granular object supplied from the first face side;

a holder located on the side of the first face, having a through hole communicable with the space, and slidable along the first face;

a shutter located on the side of the second face, having a through hole communicable with the space, and movable parallel to the second face; and

a pressing means for pressing the holder ~~toward~~ against the measuring vessel.

2. (Original) The device for measuring a hard granular object of claim 1, wherein there is kept a designated gap between the second face and the shutter.

3. (Currently Amended) The device for measuring a hard granular object of claim 1 wherein the holder is pressed ~~toward~~ against the measuring vessel with a force smaller than that required to crush the hard granular object.

4. (Previously Presented) The device for measuring a hard granular object of claim 1, wherein a part of the first face which slides on the holder is made of an abrasion resistant material.

5. (Previously Presented) The device for measuring a hard granular object of claim 1, wherein a part of the holder which slides on the measuring vessel is made of an acetal resin or polyether-ether-ketone.

6. (Previously Presented) The device for measuring a hard granular object of claim 1, wherein a part of the second face facing the shutter is made of an abrasion resistant material.

7. (Previously Presented) The device for measuring a hard granular object of claim 1, wherein the space of the measuring vessel for receiving the hard granular object has an opening with its unchamfered edge in the first face.

8. (Previously Presented) The device for measuring a hard granular object of claim 1, wherein the space of the measuring vessel for receiving the hard granular object has an opening with its unchamfered edge in the second face.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) The device for measuring a hard granular object of claim 2, wherein the holder is pressed toward against the measuring vessel with a force smaller than that required to crush the hard granular object.

11. (Previously Presented) The device for measuring a hard granular object of claim 2, wherein a part of the first face which slides on the holder is made of an abrasion resistant material.

12. (Previously Presented) The device for measuring a hard granular object of claim 3, wherein a part of the first face which slides on the holder is made of an abrasion resistant material.

13. (Previously Presented) The device for measuring a hard granular object of claim 2, wherein a part of the holder which slides on the measuring vessel is made of an acetal resin or polyether-ether-ketone.

14. (Previously Presented) The device for measuring a hard granular object of claim 2, wherein a part of the second face facing the shutter is made of an abrasion resistant material.

15. (Previously Presented) The device for measuring a hard granular object of claim 4, wherein a part of the second face facing the shutter is made of an abrasion resistant material.

16. (Previously Presented) The device for measuring a hard granular object of claim 11, wherein a part of the second face facing the shutter is made of an abrasion resistant material.

17. (Previously Presented) The device for measuring a hard granular object of claim 2, wherein the space of the measuring vessel for receiving the hard granular object has an opening with its unchamfered edge in the first face.

18. (Previously Presented) The device for measuring a hard granular object of claim 2, wherein the space of the measuring vessel for receiving the hard granular object has an opening with its unchamfered edge in the second face.

19. (Previously Presented) The device for measuring a hard granular object of claim 7, wherein the space of the measuring vessel for receiving the hard granular object has an opening with its unchamfered edge in the second face.

20. (Previously Presented) The device for measuring a hard granular object of claim 17, wherein the space of the measuring vessel for receiving the hard granular object has an opening with its unchamfered edge in the second face.

21. (New) The device for measuring a hard granular object of claim 1, wherein the pressing means is selected from the group consisting of springs, hydraulic forces, pneumatic forces, magnetic forces, elastic forces, the weight of the holder of claim 1 itself, additional weights attached thereto, and combinations of any thereof.

22. (New) The device for measuring a hard granular object of claim 21, wherein the pressing means comprises a spring.